

I'm largely preaching to the choir here. People say, "Oh, this is fine, but what does it cost? Does it cost something?" Yes, it costs something. Do you know what it cost the Federal health plans when I ordered all these protections I just told you? I issued an Executive order, and we put it into the Federal health plans. Do you know what it costs? Less than \$1 a month a policy.

The congressional majority's own research service, that are the people that basically are against this, their own people say that the costs would be less than \$2 a month a policy. Now, I'd pay \$1 or \$2 a month on my policy to know that you could go to the nearest emergency room if you got in an accident. And I think you'd feel the same way about your friends and your neighbors. I would pay.

So all of this business about how the cost is going to bankrupt the country and add to new health care costs, it is simply not so. And we have got to be clear about that.

Now, we are so close. We're one vote away. We have to overcome all the maneuvering power that the interest groups have through their influence with the leadership in the Senate, but we're one vote away. We can enact a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights this year. More than 300 health and consumer groups have endorsed it.

I've done everything I could to try to avoid making health care a partisan issue. We have passed bipartisan health care legislation to allow people to take their health insurance from one job to another, to have portability. We have enacted bipartisan legislation to provide for children's health insurance for low income people that aren't poor enough to be on Medicaid. We've approved a measure that allows people with disabilities to keep their Government-funded health care if they go into the work force. It's been a godsend. It hasn't cost you a penny as a taxpayer, and it's put a lot more people in the work force, making money and paying taxes themselves.

We have proved over and over again we could do this. And this whole thing is being hung up, with 70 percent of the American people on the other side, because one group of interests do not wish to be held accountable, like all the rest of us are, if they cause injury, because they don't want to give up

the right to tell you which specialist to see, whether you could see one, and which emergency room you can visit. It doesn't make any sense.

So I'm honored to be here. I thank you all for what you have done and for once again having the Show Me State show the way. But I want you to think about the million Missourians who aren't covered by your own law, and the 135 million of your fellow Americans who wouldn't be covered by that Senate bill that poses as a Patients' Bill of Rights. And I want you to think about the one vote standing between all America and the kind of health care system we need. All we need is one vote, and we can change America for the better.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in Jesse Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Manuel T. Pacheco, president, University of Missouri System; Richard Wallace, chancellor, University of Missouri at Columbia; Doug Bouldin, family nurse practitioner, who introduced the President; State Representative Timothy Harlan; Mayor Darwin Hindman of Columbia; Gov. Mel Carnahan of Missouri and his wife, Jean; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Statement on the Release of School Accountability Funds

July 6, 2000

I am pleased that the Education Department announced today the release of the first \$100 million from the Title I School Accountability Fund to help States and school districts turn around low performing schools. Over the last 7 years, we have followed a commonsense reform strategy—invest more in our schools and demand more in return. The funds announced today will support local communities in 31 States and the District of Columbia implement strategies that work to turn around their worst performing schools by: implementing a tougher curriculum; helping teachers get the skills and training they need; and if necessary, closing down a failing school and reopening it under new leadership or as a public charter school.

Today I call on Congress again to enact my budget proposal, which would double the

Accountability Fund to \$250 million; fulfill our commitment to hire 100,000 high-quality teachers to reduce class size in the early grades; build and modernize public schools; and ensure after-school help for every child in a failing school. I also urge Congress to pass my "Education Accountability Act," which will enhance the efforts of States, districts, and schools to ensure all of America's children can achieve high standards by focusing on results.

NOTE: The statement referred to Title I—Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382), which amended Title I—Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10).

Proclamation 7328—To Amend the Generalized System of Preferences July 6, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Section 502(c)(7) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)(7)), provides that, in determining whether to designate any country a beneficiary developing country under this section, the President shall take into account whether that country has taken or is taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in that country. Section 502(d)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(d)(1)) provides that the President may withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) with respect to any designated beneficiary developing country based on consideration of the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462(c)). Section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)) requires the President to notify the Congress and the affected country, at least 60 days before termination, of the President's intention to terminate the affected country's designation as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

2. Section 502(e) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President

shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country if the President determines that such country has become a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

3. Pursuant to section 502(d) of the Trade Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend Belarus's GSP benefits because it has not taken and is not taking steps to afford workers in that country internationally recognized worker rights. In order to reflect the suspension of benefits under the GSP for articles imported from Belarus, I have determined that it is appropriate to modify general note 4(a) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

4. Pursuant to section 502(e) of the Trade Act, I have determined that Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia meet the definition of a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Accordingly, pursuant to section 502(e) of the Trade Act, I am terminating the preferential treatment under the GSP for articles that are currently eligible for such treatment and that are imported from Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia, effective January 1, 2002.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other Acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to Title V and section 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect the suspension of benefits under the GSP with respect to Belarus, general note 4(a) of the HTS is modified by deleting "Belarus" from the list